



Your Generosity at Work

*in providing land, hope, life to the 24 families
in the village of San Diego, El Salvador*

PRESENTED TO

San Diego supporters

PRESENTED BY

Agros International
2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor,
Seattle, WA 98121

**“We have houses and a
community. We have
land. We have life. What
more can we ask?”**

—Nohemí

We are so grateful for your ongoing support of San Diego and the hope and opportunity it brings to the families who live there.

As we begin a new year, we're happy to present our update in a new format, which integrates feedback we've received over the years about our village updates. Some of the changes we've made include providing an overall country update from Country Manager Oscar López as well as including more photos of the families you've come to know through your support of San Diego.

We hope you like this new update, and would welcome any feedback you may have. Thank you for your commitment to San Diego!

San Diego, El Salvador

Village Update, Autumn 2011



Community member Adolph Leiva stands next to a macro-tunnel, an agricultural method learned from Agros.

From the Country Manager . . .

This quarter was the first in the new Agros fiscal year, and I am pleased to say that in El Salvador, the new year has gotten off to a great start!

Countrywide, during the quarter, 80% of the planned economic development activities were accomplished. These activities are focused on empowering Agros families to provide for their own nutrition needs and generate an income.

In the area of human development, actual activities exceeded the quarterly plan. Human development activities are designed to improve our families' lives in such areas as formal education, life-skills training and spiritual growth.

Overall, in the four El Salvador villages more than 93% of the planned activities for the quarter were implemented.

We are also excited to be launching "field schools" in the villages. For these schools, parcels of land are set aside to provide hands-on training to the families in new agricultural techniques and best practices. This method of training has worked well in other Agros countries, and we anticipate that it will greatly increase our families' skills and success.

For all you do on behalf of the 89 Agros families in El Salvador, thank you! You are making a real and lasting difference in their lives.

—Oscar López

San Diego Facts at a Glance

- ◆ Founded in 2000, San Diego is in its sixth stage of development (of 10 stages).
- ◆ Families grow five different crops to sell for income, and 100% own livestock.
- ◆ All of the families successfully market their products.
- ◆ All families are up-to-date on repayment of enterprise loans.
- ◆ All families have ready access to clean water for home use.
- ◆ 76% of the school-aged children are attending school.
- ◆ 67% of the community's leadership positions are held by women.



Children participate in a workshop on the subject of values.

Autumn 2011 Village Highlights

Community Organization

San Diego enjoyed the visit of a service team from the United States. The community was grateful for the encouragement, help and fellowship of the team.

Leadership investigated the construction of an additional access road to provide a new way into and out of the community. They secured a donation to purchase the right of way from a neighboring property owner. The same neighbor and a nearby community have promised additional donations when the project gets underway.

Land Ownership

To date, 10 families have paid off their land loans. They are a great inspiration to the other families to complete their payments.

Housing and Infrastructure

The improvement of sections of the community's main road was completed. Also, progress was made

in constructing a "gray water" recycling system for the main road. Renovations also continued to the community warehouse, which is being converted into a health center.

Sustainable Economic Growth

Three families are cultivating two parcels of green chili peppers under the protection of macro-tunnels. During the quarter, they earned \$2,134 from the sale of 216 bags of peppers.

The third cycle of the pig-raising project was completed. Seven participating families sold 10 pigs for a net income of \$380.

The Agros team provided monitoring and technical assistance to the families cultivating beans, raising poultry and growing fruit trees.

Community Education & Training

The community health promoter conducted two workshops for women on family planning and sexually-transmitted diseases.

She also coordinated a breast cancer awareness workshop and screenings. Eighteen women were screened with ultrasounds or mammograms.

In coordination with the organization Aid in Action, the young people attended a workshop on dealing effectively with everyday challenges.

Also, the younger children were provided two workshops on values and teamwork.

Thirty-one adults attended a gender equality workshop, and 29 women attended another workshop about the importance of teamwork between men and women.

Making a Difference...

During El Salvador's bloody civil war, Nohemí, her husband and their six children were forced to flee for their lives to Honduras. About those days as a refugee, Nohemí, a woman of strong faith, says, "I always knew that someday God would hear my prayers to return safe and sound to my country with my family."

It was a happy day when Nohemí learned that it was finally safe to return to El Salvador. But then came the hardship of finding a place to live, a place to cultivate crops, a place, as Nohemí says, "to make a true home." As before, she prayed for God's direction and blessing.

That blessing came in the form of Agros and the opportunity to join the new community of San Diego. She says, "It was a challenge, but we took it on with courage and faith."

Today, Nohemí and her husband have almost completed paying off their land loan. "I have always dreamed about a better world, in which we would have a house, land and get ahead," she says. "It was those dreams that motivated me to fight!"